1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and the position relating to expenditure account is as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of Scheme	Central Grants Released		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	
1. Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme.	Nil	34.00	The expenditure details have not been received so far.
2. For salt industry and Labour Development Schemes.	2.96	4.36	Expenditure details received.
TOTAL	2.96	38.36	

Reconstitution of Hindi Salahakar Samiti

565. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when Hindi Salahakar Samiti was re-constituted in the Ministry;

(b) the number of sittings of the Samiti held during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the efforts made to conduct meetings regularly?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Hindi Salahakar Samiti of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Deptt. of Commerce, Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion) were reconstituted on 23.4.1999 and 31.8.2000 respectively. First Meeting of Hindi Salahakar Samiti of Deptt. of Commerce was convened on 17.2.2000 and next meeting is scheduled for 15.3.2001, so far as meeting of Hindi Salahakar

Samiti of Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion is concerned no meeting could be held during last three years as it was under the process of re-constitution. However meeting of Committee was held on 19.2.2001. It has always been the endeavour of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to convene its meeting regularly.

Share of Assam in tea export

566. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the export of tea during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and the current year and the share of Assam tea therein; and

(b) whether exports of tea from Assam suffer from certain impediments exclusive to that State and the North Eastern Region, including the delay in issue of certain quarter related certificates, if so, the steps taken and proposed to be taken to remove such impediments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Tea is exported mainly in blended form either in bulk or in packets. In the process of blending, origin of tea is lost and hence export of tea by origin cannot be ascertained. The quantity and value of tea exported from India during the last two years and the current year are as follows:

Year	Quantity (Mn. kg.)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1998-99	205.86	2191.84
1999-2000	192.44	1932.66
2000-2001 (April-December)	155.58	1374.32

(b) A few exporters of tea including Eastern India Shippers' Association had brought to the notice of the Tea Board/Government that the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage had stopped issuing Plant Quarantine Certificates from 12.10.2000.